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Attorneys for Defendant

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
 NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA  
 SAN FRANCISCO DIVISION

JEFFREY W. TAM,

Plaintiff,

v.

JOHN E. POTTER,

Defendant.

No. 07-2747 SI

**DEFENDANT'S ANSWER TO  
 PLAINTIFF'S AMENDED  
 COMPLAINT**

For his Answer to Plaintiff's Amended Complaint, Defendant John E. Potter admits, denies, and alleges as follows:

1. Plaintiff's preliminary statement contains allegations regarding plaintiff's residency, defendant's location, and a procedural history and description of the complaint. Defendant is without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief regarding plaintiff's allegations regarding his residency, and on that basis denies them. Defendant admits that the office of the Postmaster General of the United States Postal Service is located in Washington, DC. To the extent a response is required, defendant denies all remaining allegations in the preliminary statement regarding defendant's location. The other allegations of plaintiff's preliminary

1 statement state a procedural history and description of the complaint, to which no response is  
2 required.

3 2. Defendant denies the allegations of paragraph 1.

4 3. Defendant denies the allegations of paragraph 2.

5 4. Defendant denies the allegations of paragraph 3.

6 5. Defendant denies the allegations of paragraph 4.

7 6. Defendant denies the allegations of paragraph 5.

8 7. Defendant denies the allegations of paragraph 6.

9 8. Defendant denies the allegations of paragraph 7.

10 9. Defendant denies the allegations of paragraph 8.

11 10. Defendant denies the allegations of paragraph 9.

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13 **AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSES**

14 **FIRST AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE**

15 This court is without subject matter jurisdiction over some or all of plaintiff's claims.

16 **SECOND AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE**

17 Plaintiff's claims are barred, in whole or in part, to the extent he failed to exhaust all  
18 administrative remedies.

19 **THIRD AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE**

20 The complaint and each claim asserted therein fail to state a cause of action upon which  
21 relief can be granted.

22 **FOURTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE**

23 Some or all of plaintiff's claims are barred by the doctrine of sovereign immunity.

24 **FIFTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE**

25 To the extent plaintiff seeks relief for alleged conduct occurring more than the  
26 prescribed number of days within which he was required to file an administrative complaint,  
27 such claims are barred.  
28

**SIXTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE**

Each of plaintiff's claims is barred by the applicable statute of limitation, including but not limited to 42 U.S.C. section 2000e-16, 29 C.F.R. section 1614.105, and/or 29 C.F.R. section 1614.407.

**SEVENTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE**

Plaintiff's relief, if any, is limited to that provided by 42 U.S.C. sections 2000e *et seq.*, as amended by the Civil Rights Act of 1991, and 42 U.S.C. section 1981a(b)(3).

**EIGHTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE**

Each of plaintiff's claims is barred because the actions allegedly taken against plaintiff were not adverse employment actions subject to redress under Title VII.

**NINTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE**

Plaintiff may obtain no relief because any adverse employment actions taken against him were based on legitimate non-discriminatory reasons other than plaintiff's race, color, sex, national origin, or any prior complaints, and those reasons were and are not pretextual.

**TENTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE**

Each of plaintiff's claims is barred because any adverse employment actions taken against him would have been taken regardless of his race, color, sex, national origin, or any prior complaints.

**ELEVENTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE**

Each of plaintiff's claims is barred because defendant had good cause for his conduct.

**TWELFTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE**

Any and all conduct of which plaintiff complains or which is attributable to defendant was a just and proper exercise of management discretion undertaken in good faith, for a fair and honest reason other than plaintiff's race, color, sex, national origin, or any prior complaints.

**THIRTEENTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE**

Plaintiff's claims are barred, in whole or in part, because similarly situated employees outside his protected class were not treated more favorably than he was.

**FOURTEENTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE**

Any actions and/or omissions attributable to defendant were at all times privileged or justified.

**FIFTEENTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE**

Each of plaintiff's claims is barred to the extent he waived his right to recover.

**SIXTEENTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE**

Plaintiff is equitably estopped from asserting claims against defendant because he has induced, caused, and/or contributed to the alleged conduct of which he now complains.

**SEVENTEENTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE**

Plaintiff's claims are barred to the extent he unreasonably delayed.

**EIGHTEENTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE**

Plaintiff's recovery is barred to the extent he failed to mitigate his alleged damages.

**NINETEENTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE**

Each of plaintiff's claims is barred to the extent he ratified and/or consented to any conduct of which he complains.

**TWENTIETH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE**

Plaintiff's claims are barred, in whole or in part, to the extent it would be inequitable to allow damages or other relief based on his unclean hands and/or misconduct.

**TWENTY-FIRST AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE**

Defendant is entitled to a set-off against any award of damages to plaintiff of any outstanding debt or obligation of plaintiff to the Postal Service or any federal agency, any worker's compensation, unemployment or disability benefits, any benefits under the benefit plans of the Postal Service or others, and any benefits from any federal agency or federally-funded agency that plaintiff receives or has received for injuries or damages alleged in the complaint.

**TWENTY-SECOND AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE**

Plaintiff knew or should have known his claims are without reasonable basis in law and

1 equity and cannot be supported by a good faith argument for extension, modification, or  
2 reversal of existing law. Defendant is therefore entitled to recover reasonable attorneys' fees,  
3 expenses, and costs incurred by and through this action.

4 **TWENTY-THIRD AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE**

5 Plaintiff's claims are barred because plaintiff did not exhaust any grievance and/or  
6 arbitration procedure created in a collective bargaining agreement.

7 **TWENTY-FOURTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE**

8 The defendant is not a proper party.

9 **TWENTY-FIFTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE**

10 Plaintiff may recover only those damages allowed under the law.

11 **TWENTY-SIXTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE**

12 Title VII is the exclusive remedy for alleged employment discrimination by the federal  
13 government, and plaintiff is precluded from bringing any other claims or seeking any relief  
14 other than that provided by Title VII.

15 **TWENTY-SEVENTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE**

16 Plaintiff's claims are barred, in whole or in part, to the extent he failed to avail himself  
17 of the mechanisms defendant established to prevent and correct any allegedly unlawful conduct.

18 **TWENTY-EIGHTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE**

19 Defendant reserves the right to amend this answer to assert any other defenses in law or  
20 equity that may become apparent through the course of discovery.

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1 WHEREFORE, defendant prays as follows:

- 2 1. That plaintiff take nothing by way of his complaint, and that the complaint be  
3 dismissed with prejudice;
- 4 2. For costs of suit and reasonable attorneys' fees incurred herein; and
- 5 3. For such other relief the Court deems proper.
- 6

7 DATED: OCTOBER 5, 2007

Respectfully submitted,  
SCOTT N. SCHOOLS  
United States Attorney

8  
9 /s/  
10 JENNIFER S WANG  
11 Assistant United States Attorney  
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